



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA METH COOK SENTENCED

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today on a methamphetamine-related charge.

Beau T. Leach, 23, of Columbia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On April 28, 2004, **Leach** pleaded guilty to being in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. **Leach** was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 5, 2003, in Jefferson City.

Leach was initially arrested after he was involved in a traffic accident in Columbia on April 28, 2003. At the time of the accident, Graves said, law enforcement officers noticed a strong smell of chemicals emitting from **Leach's** 1994 Jeep Cherokee. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed various items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine, including a glass jar, Prestone starting fluid, a white propane tank, empty glass jars, coffee filters, a coffee grinder used to crush pseudoephedrine pills, plastic tubing, Rotor Rooter drain cleaner, 10 lithium batteries, digital scales, paint thinner, two walkie talkies, a cooler, five medical syringes, 144 white scored pills and 22 blister packs containing 528 pills.

Leach was arrested a second time on Aug. 28, 2003, after he was found in possession of a propane tank that previously contained anhydrous ammonia, a small amount of methamphetamine and other items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the MUSTANG (Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group) Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow